

# SEES HALL SHOT IN FIGHT FOR GUN

## Simpson Says Wife Didn't Mean To Kill Rector

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who had purchased for gold the love of a younger man, a love which she could not hold.

He called her cold and stern. The loss of the minister's affection had filled her with vehemence and hate, he said. He drew a mental picture of a struggle between Mrs. Hall and her brothers on one side and Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills on the other—a struggle he would have the jury believe took place when the trust of the clergyman and the choir singer was interrupted on the Phillips farm.

Murder was not in the hearts of the three, Simpson conceded. But in the tussle for possession of a gun, it accidentally exploded and Dr. Hall went down, shot through the head.

Then, with all the cunning he could muster, the special prosecutor went on to tell how Mrs. Mills had been next killed as a means of precaution.

### Defendants Unmoved

Throughout the dramatic recital Mrs. Hall and her brothers sat unmoved. Whenever he made a reference to Willie, a lawyer engaged that individual in a whispered conversation.

The special prosecutor was in rare form as he launched his final attack in a hectic endeavor to vindicate the charges against the defendants and the great outlay of money the present trial has cost.

He began by asking the jurors to overlook their personal animosity toward him, and to decide on a verdict from the evidence alone. He scored the Middlesex County grand jury, which in 1922 investigated the case, declaring it had "lynched justice."

### Calls Mills a "Boob"

He charged that politics had entered the trial; that, according to the defense theory, Mrs. Jane Gibson's mule might as well have committed the murders as the "pig woman," or Jimmy Mills, whom he termed the "boob" husband of the slain singer.

With gathering scorn, he lashed the actions of Mrs. Hall immediately after the bodies had been found, and characterized Felix Di Martini, the private detective engaged by her, as a "fixer" and a "liar."

The fingerprint on the calling card, which the state claims was made by Willie Stevens, and the defense says was not, was held to

be authentic, not a forgery, as charged.

### Defends "Pig Woman"

He attacked Henry Stevens's alibi of having been fishing on that fatal September 14, 1922, and defended Mrs. Gibson, his star witness.

In conclusion, he roared that out of the crime there will come at least five more trials and that Somerset county must pay the bills.

And under the stress of the last day of the trial, Simpson did not forget he is the master showman. This was proved immediately after court convened. Everybody was waiting for the special prosecutor to start his summation. Instead Prosecutor Francis Bergen of Somerset county arose.

It was a surprise play, worthy of the best producer. Senator Clarence E. Case and Robert H. McCarter of defense counsel had both appealed to the local pride of the jurymen. Bergen, a native son, was hurled into the breach.

"When I came back from my vacation," began Bergen, but McCarter, defense chief, objected.

### Says He Signed Warrants

"These men have poured the vials of their vulgar vituperation upon us," Simpson interjected. "Mr. Bergen will answer their slurs."

Bergen rambled on. He told how Capt. Harry Walsh, Jersey City detective, had aided in several Somerset county crimes.

"I signed the warrants before Simpson had entered the case," Bergen said, shaking a finger at Mrs. Hall. "I did it because I thought Mrs. Hall was guilty of murder. I would have done the

same with a washerwoman. I am not ashamed; I am not trying to make any apologies. Now Senator Simpson will resume the summation."

The special prosecutor began by thanking those of the jurymen who were going to weigh the evidence carefully, "who were not going to kick the case out the window in twenty minutes."

Simpson, clever actor, was pleasant and persuasive with the jury he knows is hostile to him. As he went on he mentioned the names of



MRS. FRANCES HALL

Jurors John Young and Samuel Hope as beholden to Senator Case.

### Heard Juror Dislikes Him

"I know some of you are against me. I have heard Mr. Young has a personal dislike for me. I know Mr. Hope is a personal friend of

Senator Case. But I hope that won't influence him.

"Now, let us consider this case. A week after the murder it was taken to New Brunswick, where these defendants own the banks and control the town. They might as well have held the investigation in the front parlor of the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall.

"Mrs. Hall, Henry Stevens and William made statements. But the case was not properly chloroformed in Middlesex county, so a grand jury heard witnesses. That grand jury lynched justice.

"McCarter says James Mills murdered these people. Case insists Mrs. Gibson did it.

"I don't want to bring a jest into this, but I can show by their logic that Jennie, the mule, did the job. Mrs. Gibson was a circus woman. Jennie was a trained mule. One of her tricks was to fire off a revolver. So Jennie killed Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills.

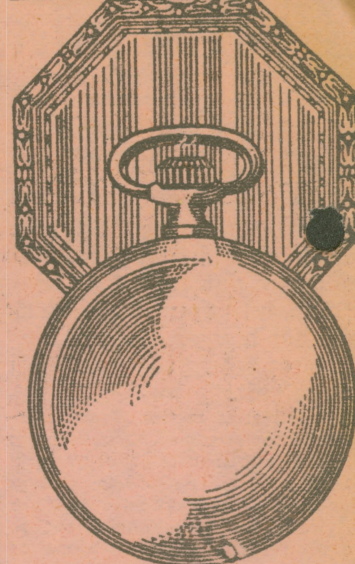
"I didn't want to try the case this way. I wanted a foreign jury. I knew what these cheap politicians would do. The eyes of the world are on you and this trial and incidentally you're on trial, too.

"The way they conducted that investigation in New Brunswick—stronghold of the elite; home of the mustard plaster. Your Senator Case is a great man. You should be proud of him. Don't let him speak so harshly about Hudson county, though. He used to live in Jersey City.

"Let us return to the case. A mother has been murdered. A 12-year-old girl is alone. A 6-year-old boy is wandering about with a 'dumbbell' father.

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